

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the amendments above and the arguments set forth fully below. Claims 1-14 were previously pending in this application. Claims 1-14 are rejected. By the above amendments, Claims 1, 4, and 9 are amended. Accordingly, Claims 1-14 are now pending in this application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Within the Office Action, Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,970,133 issued to Salimando. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The present invention is directed to an audible confirmation system that utilizes an intelligent network architecture 100. The intelligent network architecture 100 includes data links (indicated by solid lines in Figure 1) and control links (indicated by dashed lines in Figure 1). A signal control point 110 provides control signals via the control links. These control signals are directed to a calling name database 130, switches 150 and 160, and a text to speech converter 140. Data links are provided for voice, or audio transmission. The caller 170, the switches 150 and 160, the calling name database 130, and the text to speech converter 140 are all coupled using data links. The signal control point 110 is not coupled to either the caller 170, the switches 150 and 160, the calling name database 130, or the text to speech converter 140 using a data link. As such, the signal control point is independent of a call routing path (from the caller 170, through the switches 150 and/or 160, to a called party), and the signal control point is independent of any data paths (data links) between the calling party 170, the calling name database 130, and the text to speech converter 140.

Salimando teaches a communication network including an exchange carrier network 10, a calling router 50 connected to a calling party 70, and a called router 60 connected to a called party 80. The exchange carrier network includes a switching system 20 that performs call processing and routing functions for calling party 70 and called party 80. A calling party 70 initiates a call through the calling router 50. The switching system 20 receives the call, extracts

call information from the call, and accesses information from a database 40 specific to the called party 80. A portion of the accessed information is passed to an announcement system 30 to be converted from text to voice signals. In other words, data is passed over a data path from the database 40 to the switching system 20 to the announcement system 30. Switching system 20 connects announcement system 30 via calling router 50 to calling party 70. Announcement system 30 transmits the converted voice signals to calling party 70. In other words, the converted voice signals are transmitted over a data path from the announcement system 30 to the switching system 20 to the calling party 70. In summary, data paths connect the database 40, the switching system 20, the announcement system 30, and the calling party 70 to transmit converted voice signals from the announcement system 30 and information accessed from the database 40.

Within the Office Action, it is stated that the database 40 of Salimando is analogous to the claimed database of the present invention. It is also stated that the database 40 of Salimando is analogous to the claimed signal control point. To support this assertion, column 3, line 15 of Salimando is cited. In column 3, line 15, Salimando teaches that the database 40 may be a network control point (NCP). However, in this same passage, Salimando also teaches that the database 40 stores conventional telephone numbers of a called party 80 and corresponding identification information about called party 80. As such, the database 40 of Salimando functions as both a database and a control point. Therefore, the database 40, acting as both database and control point, is part of the data path between the database, the announcement system 30, and the calling party 70.

In contrast, the signal control point of the present invention is independent of the data path between the calling party, the database, and the text to speech converter. The database 40 of Salimando is part of the data path between the calling party, the database, and a text to speech converter. As such, the claimed signal control point of the present invention and the database 40 of Salimando are not the same.

The amended independent Claim 1 is directed to an audible confirmation system in an Intelligent Network for allowing a calling party to audibly hear an audible name of a call recipient. The audible confirmation system comprises a database configured for storing a plurality of text names wherein each of the plurality of text names is associated with a unique identifier, a signal control point coupled to the database, the signal control point independent of a call routing path and independent of a data path between the calling party, the database, and a

text to speech converter, and configured to control the retrieval of a select one of the plurality of text names in response to a call initiated by the calling party directed to the unique identifier, and the text to speech converter coupled to the control point and configured to convert the selected one of the plurality of text names into the audible name. As discussed above, Salimando does not teach a signal control point independent of a call routing path and independent of a data path between the calling party, the database, and a text to speech converter. For at least these reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Salimando and as such is an allowable base claim.

Claims 2 and 3 are each dependent upon the independent Claim 1. As discussed above, Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Salimando. Accordingly, Claims 2 and 3 are each also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The amended independent Claim 4 teaches a method of allowing a calling party to audibly identify a call recipient. The method of Claim 4 includes initiating a call from the calling party directed to an identifier belonging to the call recipient, matching the identifier to a text name corresponding to the recipient within a database by a signal control point independent of a call routing path and independent of a data path between the calling party, the database, and a text to speech converter, retrieving the text name of the recipient from the database, converting the text name of the call recipient to an audible name, and audibly playing the audible name of the call recipient to the calling party prior to connecting the call. As discussed above, Salimando does not teach a signal control point independent of a call routing path and independent of a data path between the calling party, the database, and a text to speech converter. For at least these reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of the independent Claim 4 is allowable over the teachings of Salimando and as such is an allowable base claim.

Claims 5 and 6 are each dependent upon the independent Claim 4. As discussed above, Claim 4 is allowable over the teachings of Salimando. Accordingly, Claims 5 and 6 are each also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Within the Office Action, Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Salimando in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,078,655 issued to Fahrner et al.

(hereinafter "Fahrer"). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 7 is dependent on the independent Claim 4. As discussed above, Claim 4 is allowable over the teachings of Salimando. Accordingly, Claim 7 is also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Within the Office Action, Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Salimando in view of Fahrer, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,650,737 issued to Finnigan. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 8 is dependent on the independent Claim 4. As discussed above, Claim 4 is allowable over the teachings of Salimando. Accordingly, Claim 8 is also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Within the Office Action, Claims 9-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Finnigan in view of Salimando. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The amended independent Claim 9 is directed to a method of allowing a calling party to audibly identify a call recipient. The method comprises pre-recording a voice message by the calling party directed toward an identifier belonging to the call recipient, matching the identifier to a text name corresponding to the call recipient by a signal control point independent of a call routing path and independent of a data path between the calling party, a database, and a text to speech converter, wherein the identifier and the text name are stored within the database, converting the text name of the call recipient to an audible name, and audibly playing the audible name of the recipient to the calling party. As discussed above, Salimando does not teach a signal control point independent of a call routing path and independent of a data path between the calling party, the database, and a text to speech converter. Within the Office Action, it is stated that Finnigan is cited for disclosing pre-recoding a voice message by the calling party directed toward an identifier and audibly playing the audible name of the recipient to the calling party. Finnigan does not teach matching the identifier to a text name by a signal control point, where the signal control point is independent of a call routing path Salimando does not teach a signal control point independent of a call routing path and independent of a data path between the calling party, the database, and the text to speech converter. Therefore, neither Finnigan,

Salimando, nor their combination teach a signal control point independent of a call routing path and independent of a data path between the calling party, the database, and a text to speech converter. For at least these reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of the independent Claim 9 is allowable over the teachings of Finnigan, Salimando, and their combination, and as such is an allowable base claim.

Claims 10-13 are dependent on the independent Claim 9. As discussed above, Claim 9 is allowable over the teachings of Finnigan, Salimando, and their combination. Accordingly, Claims 10-13 are each also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

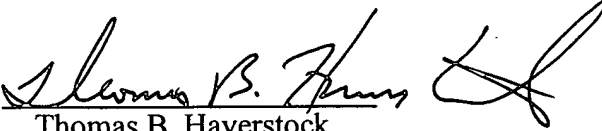
Within the Office Action, Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Finnigan in view of Salimando, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,289,090 issued to Tessler et al. (hereinafter "Tessler"). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 14 is dependent on the independent Claim 9. As discussed above, Claim 9 is allowable over the teachings of Finnigan, Salimando, and their combination. Accordingly, Claim 14 is also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

For at least the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, he is encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

Dated: 7-20-04

By: 
Thomas B. Haverstock
Reg. No. 32,571
Attorneys for Applicants

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR § 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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